Seminars designed to help individuals interested in becoming an entrepreneur will begin 6-8 p.m. Tuesday. Page 2.



Vol. 10, No. 10 • March 11, 2005 | Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal | Ready to Fight and Win!



Flamenco show

There will be a Flamenco music and dance show at the Praia Theater, at 9 p.m. March 11 & 12. Tickets can be purchased at the door two hours before each show. For ticket reservations call 295-542-688.

Easter egg hunt

Easter egg hunts are March 26 for base children. For kids up to 4 years old, 1 p.m. on the Subway lawn; 5-7 years old, 1:15 p.m. on the community activity center lawn; 8-9 years old, 1:30 p.m. in the Oceanview playground; 10-12 years old, 1:45 p.m. in the Oceanview ballpark. Volunteers are ballpark. Volunteers are needed to show up at the CAC at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call Marco Rocha at 2-4135.

Passport fee

A \$12 surcharge will be added to the existing cost of all U.S. passports effective Tuesday. The charges are now \$82 for renewals and first time applicants under the age of 16, \$97 for first time applicant over the age of 16, and \$67 for all renewals for anyone over the age of 16.

The surcharge is being applied worldwide and will be used to support the issuance of a newly redesigned passport containing new security features.

There is no change for command sponsored no-fee passports.

Preflight

- Days since last DUI...51
- DUIs since Jan. 1......1
- Current AEF 3 & 4
- Current FPCON Alpha
- Combat Nighthawk: Capt. Jennifer Gayle,

65th Medical Operations Squadron; **Master Sgt.**

Roger Alves, 65th Air Base Wing





Capt. Bradley Stebbins, 65th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight commander, briefs Lt. Gen. Arthur Lichte, United States Air Forces in Europe vice commander, about the new equipment and weather information in his shop. More photos on page 6. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Making a great first impression

Team Lajes shows USAFE vice commander around

By Capt. Yvonne Levardi Chief, public affairs

Lt. Gen. Arthur Lichte, United States Air Forces in Europe vice commander, and his wife, Chris, stopped in to visit Lajes for the first time March 2-4.

During their visit they saw many locations on and off base, received a mission brief and the general gave a Project Connect flag talk.

The general toured the tank farm and viewed the breakwater, visited the wing readiness center, power plant, 65th Medical Group, 65th Operations Support Squadron weather flight, base operations and Air Expeditionary Force center, and walked through the new passenger terminal.

Mrs. Lichte visited family housing, the child development center, library, commissary, family support center, chapel, youth center and received a briefing at the medical group on the storknesting option program.

"We're having a great time," the general said. "I'll just tell you right up front, I've been very, very impressed since I landed here yesterday."

At the wing readiness center, the general was shown how the facility is broken down and briefed on its uses.

"The wing readiness center is broken down into three areas – mobility bag storage and buildup, processing center, and command and control center," said Lt. Col. Joe Martin, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander. "We showed him all three areas and briefed him on the uses of the facility such as for noncombatant evacuation processing or as a reception facility."

The readiness center was one of the self-help projects that enabled Lajes to win \$50K in Combat

Proud money from USAFE last year.

"It was a good visit," Colonel Martin said.

After seeing the readiness center, General Lichte spoke to more than 90 company and field grade officers about the importance of mentorship.

During his visit to the 65th OSS weather flight, the general presented a coin to one of the forecasters.

"I introduced him to Sr. Jose Faria, who was the 2003 USAFE civilian weather forecaster of the year and he presented a coin to Sr. Faria," said Capt. Brad Stebbins, weather flight commander. "The best part of the visit was highlighting the teamwork we have with the Portuguese Air Force. We're a prime example of how we work together and support each other on base. This is a true combined operations center and is certainly one of the most rewarding things about working here."

The general's tour ended with a walk-through of the 729th Air Mobility Squadron's Michael Passenger Terminal.

"We simulated that the general was an arriving passenger and took him through immigrations, baggage pick-up and the meet-and-greet area," said Lt. Col. James MacFarlane, 729th AMS commander. "We then showed him the rest of the facility, emphasizing the force protection. He was very approachable, and the visit went extremely well."

Overall, Colonel MacFarlane said it was a positive visit, and the general presented a coin to Senior Airman Kristi White, 729th AMS passenger service agent, for providing the tour.

"The visit went great," said Col. Barbara Jacobi, 65th Air Base Wing commander. "My thanks go out to everyone who had a part in it – from organizing the itinerary to making sure the base looked great, we really showed the Team Lajes spirit."



USAFE

Airman Information File

March 2005

Attitude - It's a Choice!

Attitude — good or bad, we all have one. It's our mental disposition to what's going on around us. We've all met people with good and bad attitudes. Take the person who greets us with a smile and gives 110% effort when performing their duties. Compare this to the person who greets us with a grimace and complains about every little detail of their job. Who do we prefer to be around?

Our outward actions reflect our inner attitude. We easily make the connection between a person's attitude and their behavior. Phrases like "I can't" or "I won't" or "that's too hard" reflect a negative attitude which can prevent a person from actually achieving the mission. A person with a "can do, nothing is going to stop me" attitude will always find a way to succeed no matter how many or how large the obstacles in their path.

Not only does our attitude affect our

own behavior, but it also affects those around us. Winston Churchill once said, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." Attitudes are contagious. When we're surrounded by individuals with positive or negative attitudes, it's easy to catch their attitude and become infected with good or bad behavior. It's not uncommon to see a whole office of people displaying the same type of attitude. This is a good thing when it's positive, but nobody wants to work in — or even visit — an office full of bad attitudes. Always strive to be the one with a positive attitude so you can pass it on to those around you.

It's been said that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. We all have our share of good and bad experiences each day. We can't change our past. We can't change how other people act. We can't control everything that happens to

us today or in the future, but there is one thing we can control — our reaction to our circumstances. When something bad happens, we can let it bring us down and everyone else we meet during the day, or we can choose to learn from the experience, put it behind us and press ahead with an upbeat attitude. A good example of this is Army Captain David Rozelle. His right foot was amputated after an anti-tank mine ripped a hole in his HUMVEE in Iraq. His positive attitude enabled him to overcome setbacks and put him on track to be the first amputee to return to active duty operations in Iraq.

Having a positive or negative attitude is a choice that only you can make — you decide how you react to the events of the day. While you're the only one in charge of your attitude, you are not the only one affected by it. Attitudes are contagious — is yours worth catching?



General Doc Foglesong

CMSgt Gary Coleman

Focus notes

Graduates

The following members graduated from Customer College March $4. \,$

The distinguished graduate was **Else Wingert**, 65th Mission Support Squadron.

Other graduates were:

Adriana Azevedo, 65th MSS; Senior Airman William Barr, 729th Air Mobility Squadron; Staff Sgt. Rebecca Brennan, 65th Communications Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Jose Chi, 65th MSS; Staff Sgt. Adolphus Hardy, 65th Comptroller Squadron; 1st Lt. Andrew Hoisington, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron; Susana Ornelas, DeCA; Senior Airman Felicia Pierre-Louis, 65th Services Squadron; Staff Sgt. Kristopher Powers, 65th CES; Senior Airman Laura Rupert, 65th Air Base Wing; Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Rybold, 65th CS

March Combat Touch

All events are at the base chapel unless otherwise noted. AWANA T&T is at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Protestant Teens of the Chapel 24-hour Famine begins at 6 p.m. today.

Men's Spiritual Leadership Training/Breakfast is at 8 a.m. March 19. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) David Knight at 2-4211

Catholic Youth Grand Opening is at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Lajes Youth Center

Catholic Men of the Chapel mass and dinner is at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Catholic Lent Penance service is at 7 p.m. March 21.

Single and unaccompanied members' dinner is at $5:30~\mathrm{p.m.}$ March 24

Holy Thursday mass and adoration is at 7 p.m. March 24 Good Friday/Passion & Veneration of the cross is at 3 p.m. March 25. Easter vigil mass is at 8:30 p.m. March 26. For more information about these events, call Chaplain (Capt.) Matthew Glaros at

Seminars help build business

Nadia Najdawi Contributing writer

The Family Support Center will be offering a series of ongoing seminars designed to help individuals interested in becoming an entrepreneur starting 6-8 p.m. March 15.

The classes and resources are free and available to military personnel, spouses and dependants by signing up at the Family Support Center.

"There are no guarantees when it comes to starting a business, but some of our ideas could lead you to success," said Lisa Anderson the community readiness specialist at the Family Support Center. "Goals and vision are very important to your first step in starting a great home business. Math is essential and market research is very valuable."

According to Ms. Anderson, the first step in beginning a business is research and the Family Support Center can help. Other resources and benefits members of the Lajes community can use consist of extensive research on how to develop and review business plans, make use of industry research, loan package preparation and information about business startup quidelines.

The classes will focus on how to start and expand a business, as well as details on financing and strategic planning.

Other available resources include business software, articles and information on home businesses.

Everyone is welcome to attend or take advantage of the great opportunities being offered at the Family Support Center.

For those who are planning on being an entrepreneur, or just curious, information is available. Being familiar with local and state licenses as well as international laws is another source of information that will be provided during the seminars.

For more information, call the Family Support Center at 2-4138.

Mission Afghanistan



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Coggins, 65th Air Base Wing chaplain, and Kim Balfour, Catholic Religious Education Coordinator, organize more than 100 gift packs for children in Afghanistan. The chapel and the community joined together to collect goods for children in Afghanistan. The project had three groups. The school gift pack included pens, pencils, notebooks, a pencil sharpener, crayons and a ruler. The Orphanage gift pack had vitamins, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and socks. The Medical gift pack had vitamins, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and band-aids. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward Stobierski)

12 selected for E-8

Team Lajes had 12 master sergeants selected for promotion to senior master sergeant.

They are: Anthony Bickerdike, 729th Air Mobility Squadron; Tracy Burke, 65th Contracting Squadron; Melvin Capers, 65th Air Base Wing; David Cornille, 65th Security Forces Squadron; Jimmie Davis, 65th SFS; Roger Dowdy, 729th AMS; Norman Evans, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Paul Firman, Detachment 6, Air Force News; Onofre Martin Jr., 65th ABW; Kenneth Meierhofer, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron; Henry Parker III, 65th Services Squadron; Kurt Uelmen, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Air Force officials selected 1,535 master sergeants for promotion to senior master sergeant.

The promotion list was released Wednesday and it's available on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/.

The board, which convened Jan. 31 to Feb. 18, considered 16,708 master sergeants for a 9.19 percent selection rate.

The average score for those selected was 663.46 with an average time-ingrade and time-in-service of 4.54 and 20.16 years respectively. The average score was based on the following point averages:

- 134.98 for performance reports.
- 33.48 for time-in-grade.
- 21.24 for time-in-service.
- 20.43 for decorations.
- 66.32 for Air Force supervisory examination.
 - 387.01 for board score.

Score notices will be available on the virtual military personnel flight March 11. Those selected will be promoted beginning in April.

For more information on the senior master sergeant list, contact the local military personnel flight. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

SHARP!

Wearing the uniform on and off base

Article VI of the Agreement on Cooperation and Defense between the United States of America and Portugal states that U. S. personnel will only wear their uniforms on Air Base Number 4, Lajes Field, and its supporting facilities. Outside those areas, people will only wear uniforms when on duty – official business – or when commuting between their residence and place of work.



Drugs, money, American stolen goods seized

By 1st Lt. Aaron Wiley Deputy Chief, public affairs

Drugs, money and hundreds of stolen items were seized by the Portuguese Public Security Police of the Angra do Heroísmo Command at three residences in Santa Rita, Praia da Vitória March 2.

According to a local newspaper, PSP agents apprehended about 200 grams of cocaine, 31 grams of "crystal metal" and a set of instruments agents believe could have been used to make doses of the synthetic drug, 2.5 grams of haxixe, along with two thousand euros in currency. They also recovered an estimated 30-40 thousand euros worth of stolen goods as a result of the PSP investigation, said Air Force Office of Special Investigation agents here who've estimated the approximate value of the goods to be \$50K.

AFOSI agents have been cooperating in the investigation because a large majority of the property is believed to be American government and personal property, they said.

Special Agent Randall Hodges, AFOSI Detachment 516, said the operation uncovered a cache of stolen property that included a large amount of jewelry, car stereos, compact disks, computer equipment, playstation/gamecube/xbox items, car/home speakers, cameras/camcorders, VCR/DVD players, furniture items and much more. He said the investigation had been on-going for some time and credits the commission for the PSP to search several off-base residences with the discovery of the stolen items

"We've already reunited some owners with their stolen property," Special Agent Hodges said. "There have been numerous vehicle and house break-ins in the past, and we believe a lot of the recovered property was taken during these crimes."

The local Portuguese newspaper, Diario Insular, included musical instruments, cell phones, movies, audio and video systems, tools, watches and gold items among the list of items that were recovered as a result of the PSP investigation.

Angra PSP agents arrested four men and one woman, all between the ages of 25 and 40

years old, who are suspected of involvement in distributing illegal narcotics and receiving stolen goods.

The PSP and AFOSI are working together to reunite the stolen items with their rightful owners and ask those who've been victims of theft on the island of Terceira to declare the missing objects so they can check if the items are among the ones now apprehended.

"This incident is a prime example of the importance of inventorying your property, maintaining accurate serial numbers, and marking the property with some type of identification for future reference."

Special Agent Randall Hodges, AFOSI Detachment 516

Americans, who've already filed a police report with either the 65th Security Forces or off-base law enforcement authorities, should contact the Office of Special Investigations at 2-4180 to determine if their property was among that recovered

Americans, who did not file a police report but have been victims of a theft, should also contact OSI to see if their property has been obtained.

"Recently thefts have been an area of concern for law enforcement authorities," Special Agent Hodges said. "In many instances, the stolen property is resold in order to support a drug addiction."

According to Special Agent Hodges, electronics are the hottest items stolen and always provide a high pay-off for would-be thieves.

"This incident is a prime example of the importance of inventorying your property, maintaining accurate serial numbers, and marking the property with some type of identification for

future reference," he said.

He also suggested people take pictures or videotape high-value items for easier identification.

The AFOSI detachment here continues to work with local law enforcement authorities to identify those responsible for thefts of American government and personal property.

According to Special Agent Hodges, most thefts occur around a vehicle left unattended at night in an uninhabited area, like the auto hobby shop and the surrounding area, or an unoccupied off-base residence.

"Generally the thefts we see here at Lajes are targets of opportunity," he said. "The would-be thief looks for an isolated vehicle or a residence that's been vacant for some time, indicating the person went back to the U.S. on leave or is TDY."

According to Staff Sgt. Thomas Versichelli, NCOIC of SF criminal investigations, people can help themselves by securing their valuables.

"People need to not only secure valuables, but most importantly, they need to ensure (their valuables) are not readily visible to the opportunistic thief," Sergeant Versichelli said.

Special Agent Hodges and Sergeant Versichelli both agree that "it's no different in the U.S. ... leave it unsecured and someone will make it theirs."

They said the best thing to do to avoid becoming a victim of theft is never leave valuables in a vehicle and always lock the doors when leaving a vehicle. However, a locked vehicle with money and other valuables visible from the outside does not provide a sanctuary from theft, they said.

Also, if a tenant will be away from a residence for a period of time, have someone routinely check on the home, and if possible have them stay at the residence during their absence, they added.

"This issue is really no different than the concept of the Eagle Eyes program for counter-intelligence," said Special Agent Hodges. "(People) should be aware of their surroundings, report suspicious behavior or activity, vary their routines and make their residence appear to be occupied while not at home."

Quick stop

F/A-18 Hornets of Marine Reserve unit VMFA-142 depart Lajes Field for an undisclosed location. The "Flying Gators" are stationed at Naval Air Station Atlanta, Ga., at the Hartsfield International Airport. (Photo by James O'Rear)



Extended deployments affect only 200

By Master Sgt. David Byron Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials are designating some positions in U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility as 365-day extended deployments in an effort to provide stability and allow for long-term relationship building with host governments

The new tour lengths will affect only about 200 key and critical operational and joint task force staff positions, officials said. People in the remaining positions will serve in the current air and space expeditionary force structure.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper directed the extended tours in response to requests from joint task force commanders seeking continuity in selected positions, often where the local culture requires more time to establish meaningful ties with local people and host governments.

These key positions are an integral part of a combatant commander's mission and the AEF structure. No new positions will be created; they will be converted from current AEF slots.

"The positions will span a wide spectrum of Air Force career fields," said Lt. Col. James Davis, Air Force assignment classification, retirements and separation policy chief. "There will be a good mix of enlisted and officer positions, mainly mid-level and up."

Air Force Personnel Center officials will take

the lead in finding people to fill most of the slots. Air Force Senior Leader Management Office officials will handle requirements for colonel and chief master sergeant positions, he said.

Colonel Davis said selections would be made during the course of the upcoming spring and summer assignment cycles with all being in place by August 2005.

Volunteers will be sought first, he said. If there are not enough volunteers, AFPC officials will use modified short-tour criteria to fill the slots. For colonels, AFSLMO officials will assign them through major command channels.

Although these deployments may appear to be remote tours, they are not permanent change-of-station moves. It is not a goal to establish a permanent U.S. military presence in the region, and there is no Status of Forces Agreement in place covering permanent assignments, officials said. The positions will fall under the category of "indeterminate length" temporary duty assignments. That category will allow for certain entitlements to apply that are not available for standard temporary assignments.

"Although we can't consider them regular short-tour assignments, they will be treated as such," Colonel Davis said. "Lieutenant colonels and below who complete the tours will have priority for follow-on assignments, just like any other one-year tour."

Colonels completing the tours will be assigned according to normal colonel assignment procedures.

Family members also may be eligible for standard short-tour benefits.

Storage of household goods is one benefit offered to Airmen serving temporary assignments of 180 days or longer. There are possible options for moving the Airman's family while deployed; the availability and extent of those options will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Airmen may also have the option of returning to their former assignment, if there is a suitable vacancy, officials said. There will be career benefits for Airmen serving these extended temporary assignments. Airmen serving the 365-day TDYs will receive short-tour credit and be exempt from AEF or other contingency deployments for six months following their return home. Most of the joint task force positions will earn joint-duty credit depending on actual length of rotation, officials said.

"Our expectation is that all of the joint task force positions will get full joint credit," Colonel Davis said. "We are currently validating the positions working this with the Joint Staff and (secretary of defense). Although we're asking some of our Airmen to deploy for a longer period of time to meet mission needs, we're constantly looking for the best options for our (Airmen) and their families."





New directions

(Above) The road in front of the post office and shopette has reopened with a new configuration. There is no longer street-side parking; parking is now in the area next to the fitness center wall, separated by a median. Through traffic should drive to the left of the median. (Left) Part of the new traffic circle near the bank is open - traffic can go through to the base exchange, but not up the hill towards T-100. When driving through a traffic circle, drivers should keep right if going through, and continue counter-clockwise if making a "turn" or going back the way they came. In general, drivers should yield to vehicles already in the circle or coming from their left. Use turn signals when appropriate. Also, when driving from the Ocean Front BX up the hill, there is a separate right lane to take traffic directly to the post office. According to Antonio Avila, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron project manager, the road work will continue from the circle in front of Pentagon Federal Credit Union up the street to the end of the old power plant parking lot, taking about 30 days to complete. Access to PFCU will be through the traffic circle. (Photos by Capt. Yvonne Levardi)

Web site moves

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service public Web site moved to a new location on the Internet, officials announced March 2.

The old site, www.dfas.mil, will remain available through March 31. Then, users will be redirected to the new site, www.dod.mil/dfas, and links to pages on the previous site will generate an error message notifying users of the move, officials said.

Webmasters who link to the site or pages within the site should review their links and update them accordingly, officials said.

The move will enhance the performance of the site by providing redundancy to prevent down time and by providing an opportunity for enhanced features in the future, officials said.

"Our goal is to provide the best service and products possible to the men and women who defend America," said Claudia Bogard, the service's corporate communications director. "With this move, our customers can rely on DFAS for faster access to information whenever they need it from anywhere around the globe at any hour of the day or night."

Officials said the move also will provide the following benefits:

- Increase the speed of the site by more than 12 times.
- Improve search capability to allow DFAS content to be found on any of dod-dot-mil sites.
- Allow DFAS content to be found at www.dod.mil/dfas, www.defense.mil/dfas, www.pentagon.gov/dfas, www.defense.gov/dfas, www.defense.gov/dfas or www.defense.gov/dfas.
- Create stronger alignment between DFAS and DOD public Web sites.
- Reduce the burden of public Web traffic to DFAS networks.

Ahoy!



Col. Michael Silver, 65th Mission Support Group commander, and Lt. Col. Joe Martin, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, perform a scene during the "Pirates of the Atlantic" murder mystery dinner theater at the Top of the Rock Club March 5. The murder mystery dinner was hosted by the Enlisted Spouses Club. (Photos by James O'Rear)





(Above) Senior Airman Kristi White, 729th Air Mobility Squadron Passenger Service Agent, shows the memorial wall at the passenger terminal to Lt. Gen. Arthur Lichte, United States Air Forces in Europe vice commander, during his visit here March 2-4. (Photo by Guido Melo) (Right) Janice Bur, director of the Child Development Center, talks to Chris Lichte about the CDC's functions and on-going renovations. This was the first time General Lichte and Mrs. Lichte have been to Lajes. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Michaud)

Special visitors



Air Force officials require myPay for Civilians

Civilian employees of the Air Force will be required to use the myPay system to access their leave and earning statements beginning March 31. The change brings Air Force civilians in line with active dutyand reserve-component Airmen who are already required to access their pay data online, officials said.

Hard-copy statements will no longer be mailed. Printing and mailing costs are some reasons for the change, officials said. But the primary goal is to provide people with more services and quicker access in an online format. There are numerous advantages to using myPay, officials said.

Civilian users can view and print their last 26 pay statements; change allotments, direct deposit or tax withholding information; and buy savings bonds. Users may also view and print their W-2 tax forms. One major advantage is availability, officials said.

Information may be viewed or changed from any computer with an Internet connection 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The myPay system can be found at http://www.dfas.mil/mypay. New users will need to establish a personal identification number.

New policy increases job opportunities for spouses

Civilian personnel officials are trying to spread the word about a Defense Department policy change that gives military spouses at overseas and stateside bases more job opportunities.

Military spouses no longer will be penalized for accepting temporary, time-limited jobs. In the past, military spouses who accepted a non-permanent position lasting for more than one year would lose their military spouse preference until their next permanent change of station.

The new policy went into effect Oct. 7, but the word has been slow to trickle down to bases.

The change is based on a two-year trial program in Europe called MSP Choice that ended more than a year ago. Under the new program, military spouses can use their spouse preference to accept or decline temporary positions until they get a permanent job, also known as a "continuing position."

This means that military spouses won't have to stay unemployed while waiting to apply for a permanent position. Also under the new program, military spouses who lost preference on or after Oct. 7 because they accepted or declined a timelimited position in the federal service can have preference reinstated.

To read a related article, see http://www.military.com/NewContent/0,13190,SS 030205 Spouse,00.html

Same ID Cards for Active Duty and Reservists

The DoD has begun issuing new military ID cards that do not distinguish between active-duty and reserve members. Before, military ID cards were nearly identical except that they clearly identified an individual as "Active," "Reserve" or "Guard." The distinction was made to limit commissary privileges for Reserve and Guard members who were authorized for only 24 shopping days at a commissary per calendar year. The 2004 Defense Authorization Act did away with the commissary restriction, effectively eliminating a need for separate ID cards.

The old ID cards will be phased out over the next two and half years.

AF identifies non-vol candidates for first sergeant duty

Air Force officials have identified Airmen as candidates for first sergeant duty for the second time in two years through a nonvolunteer process.

Historically, first sergeants were chosen from a pool of volunteers. But in recent years, there has not been a sufficient number of volunteers to keep the positions filled, officials said.

The Air Force has more than 1,200 first sergeant positions worldwide. Each year, roughly one-third of those positions must be refilled because incumbents either retire or return to their career specialty.

To close the gap, Air Force officials have identified 368 master sergeants from across the service as candidates for retraining as first sergeants.

Each candidate meets minimum requirements for first sergeant duty, including fewer than 18 years of service, a score of five on his or her last five performance reports and completion of the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Each candidate also will be interviewed by his or her unit commander and respective command chief master sergeant to ensure suitability for the position. Of the 368 candidates identified, as many as 120 will eventually be chosen and can expect to begin training as early as July.

The First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., is responsible for training new first sergeants and has the capacity to train about 350 a year. Unfortunately, the number of volunteers is predicted to fill only about two-thirds of those slots, officials said.

Air Force officials want to keep that pipeline full, but historically they have had trouble because of the lack of volunteers, said Senior Master Sgt. Chris Anthony, the Air Force's first sergeant special-duty manager.

"If you go out and talk to master sergeants, there is a large percentage who will consider it, and a lot will go out and do it," he said. "But what the issue has been is that we don't actively recruit new first sergeants. In the past, first sergeants were never compelled to recruit their replacements. Over the past couple of years, we've made great progress toward changing that mind-set, but we still have a ways to go."

Sergeant Anthony said many master sergeants have actually considered becoming first sergeants, but they were never encouraged effectively enough to get them to sign up.

"Once somebody took the time to talk to them, they were actually interested," he said. "We feel pretty strongly (that) there are enough people out there who want to do this, but we just haven't been encouraging them enough."

In fact, when word hit the street that the Air Force had identified 368 Airmen as candidates, Sergeant Anthony said people began calling and e-mailing him to volunteer.

Last year, Air Force officials identified about 290 people to retrain into first sergeant duty.

For various reasons, about 60 of those were not recommended by their commanders. Of the remaining 230 people, he said, 73 said that being a first sergeant was something they really wanted to do and were classified as volunteers.

"Once (we) explained to them what the job entailed and what the benefits were for them and their career, they were excited about the job and said it was something they thought they would want," Sergeant Anthony said. "Last year, we really had only about 47 people who were selected for first sergeant duty who had not volunteered. The Air Force prefers to fill all the slots with volunteers, but we are not compromising when we select individuals to do the job. Reports from commanders and command chiefs in the field indicate, with rare exception, that those (nonvolunteers) last year are performing at the same level as the volunteers.

"(One command chief) recently told me that he couldn't tell the difference from the volunteers and 'volun-tolds' and is pleased with the performance of all his first sergeants," Sergeant Anthony said.

"Volunteers are still the primary way we man this career field," he said. "And we encourage anyone who meets the qualifications, and who has the desire, to apply."

It pays to be a Wingman

Senior Master Sgt. Ray Johnson 65th Air Base Wing Combat Wingman Program Manager

In an effort to keep the Combat Wingman program running strong, USAFE and the 65th Air Base Wing have implemented the Combat Wingman Incentive program.

This program offers members who participate and proudly carry their Wingman card on them certain rewards.

Do you remember the candid camera show, "You never know when someone, somewhere, will just walk up to you and say, "Smile you're on Candid Camera?"

Well you never know, when someone, somewhere on this base will walk up to you, smile and say "How are you doing today, can I see your Combat Wingman Card?" That's our new Wingman Patrol.

If the Wingman Patrol person asks to see your Wingman Card and you have it on your person, properly filled out (signed on front and at least one Wingman and phone number on the back) you will be given a services coupon.

The services coupons are good for: two free games of bowling, two free hours of wood shop use, two free hours of auto hobby shop use, 20 percent off rental equipment at outdoor recreation or 20-piece wings for the price of 10 at the Top of the Rock Club on Wingman Wednesday.

If that person happens to be one of our colonels, you just may be the lucky one to get a USAFE Combat Wingman coin.

The real reason the Combat Wingman program pays is when we all have someone there who's looking out for us (checking your six), or someone there just to talk with if you're having a bad day, or going through a rough time, everyone is a winner, a big winner! The whole program is about

"Airmen taking care of Airmen."

Whether we're here at Lajes, deployed down range or in transition to our next assignment, it's a good thing to have a Wingman.

Taking care of one another is one of the Air Force's oldest traditions. If you're new to the base, or misplaced your Wingman Card, every squadron has a Wingman program manager. Just stop by and see them for a new card or additional information covering the program. You can also visit the Lajes Wingman web page, it also has the link to the USAFE web page and some great information.

Euros or dollars?

Question: I have noticed that sometimes when someone pays with euros at the Base Exchanges they get euros back for change, however when others pay with euros they get U.S. dollars back. Why is this? If you pay with euros and the change is a few dollars why can't everyone receive euros back? We end up losing money when we get dollars back. I have also seen some people get rung up and given a total in euros and then pay in dollars.

Answer: Thanks for raising your concern. All AAFES prices are in U.S. dollars and according to Pat Riordan, AAFES manager, merchandise should be sold accordingly. Since we're in Europe, AAFES offers customers the

Commander's Line coline@lajes.af.mil 2-4240



The Commander's Line is your direct link to me for suggestions, kudos or as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution. Your chain of command should always be your first option - for praise or problems - but when that's not the answer, call the CC Line at 2-4240 or e-mail ccline@lajes.af.mil. Thank you!

> Col. Barbara Jacobi 65th Air Base Wing commander

convenience of paying in either dollars or euros, but regardless of the method of payment, their policy is that customers receive change in dollars. Mr. Riordan was not aware that cashiers were not adhering to the policy and will ensure proper training is conducted. He has asked that if customers notice this in the future, they contact him directly at *Riordan@aafes.com*.

CR SSROAD

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Lajes Field Editorial Staff

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Tech. Sgt. Renee Kirkland	NCOIC, Public Affairs
Staff Sgt. Olenda Kleffner	Editor
Eduardo Lima	. Community Relations Adviser

Travel card a force multiplier

By Maj. Philip Ruter 65th Comptroller Squadron

Just mentioning the Government Travel Card can cause otherwise hardened people to flinch.

I, for one, used to be skeptical of a government-mandated credit card. But since the days of cash advances are long gone, the GTC is actually a force multiplier as it allows service members to focus on the mission.

Members don't have to worry whether or not they have the cash or credit line to cover their temporary duty expenses as well as their family's day-to-

day living expenses back home. They can rest assured their family is well-cared for and they can conduct

their temporary mission with a clear head. To top it off, the government will pay Bank of America directly via the split disbursement option on your travel

The only thing that's required is to track your credit card charges while you're gone and put that amount in the split disbursement box.

Since you have to claim all reimbursable expenses anyway, this shouldn't be an extra effort.

The one thing that people need to keep in mind is that for a temporary duty that lasts longer than 30 days, their GTC bill will probably come due while they are still away from home. But, your local finance office can help

If you have internet access you can file an accrual travel voucher at the 30day point on Virtual MPF.

Simply log on and go to the individual actions page, click on the miscellaneous button and you have a link to the accrual voucher. All you have to do is fill in the blanks on the web page and hit send. It is automatically emailed to your finance office and as long as you ask for it to be split disbursed your card will be paid for you.

Just hang on to your receipts for when you file your final settlement voucher. If you do not have internet access you can fax, scan or e-mail an accrual voucher to your financial services office and we can split disburse to BoA for you, and the bill is paid.

The bottom line is the GTC makes the mission easier for everyone. The individual service members can do their job without worrying about hanging on to a huge cash advance and know their family at home is secure.

It also frees up manpower in the finance office that can be used in other warfighting specialties. Quite simply, with just a little bit of planning, it enables us to focuse on the best expeditionary air force in the world.

Retreat from both sides of the street

By Staff Sqt. Stephani Bair Airman Leadership School instructor

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. (AFPN) - One cold and rainy day I stood in the parking lot across the street from the wing headquarters building with two of my troops to participate in retreat.

While we stood firmly at parade rest, waiting for the flag to lower in honor of our great nation and in memory of the courageous men and women who served before us, we observed the group of noncommissioned officers preparing for the detail. Three of the NCOs stood at the pole and appeared to be greatly enjoying a conversation.

Even though they had taken the halyards into their hands they continued to talk and laugh. Nine other NCOs lined up shoulder to shoulder just off the curb in front of the steps to the wing headquarters building. Some of them stood at parade rest, some at attention, and others hung out casually, hands in pockets, all of them still talking.

What could be more important to twelve NCOs than the privilege of lowering our nation's flag in honor of those that have given their

At the Airman Leadership School we perform reveille and retreat with our students several times during the course.

I will be the first to admit that our performance at the flag pole is not always flawless. Sometimes students find it impossible to remain steady at parade rest and they shift to wipe the sweat from their brow, or they get distracted by traffic passing

Students have chuckled and shaken their heads at countless incidents happening across the street.

Pedestrians, both uniformed and in civilian attire, stroll by without even pausing to acknowledge the music on the loud speaker system. These are motorists and pedestrians passing by without a care in the world that the flag which represents sacrifice, bloodshed and freedom is calling the end to yet another day.

For many years I found it very difficult to understand how people could show such little regard, or lose their military bearing during such an important and meaningful ceremony.

We are out of practice. We are out of practice of

performing such a detail; out of practice in giving time to observe such a detail; out of practice in teaching our troops, family and guests what reveille and retreat are all about.

This week, take a few minutes and talk with your troops, your family and your guests about a truly meaningful way to celebrate the accomplishments of our military members past and present. Tell them how our brothers and sisters fighting the war today are doing so for a noble reason.

Talk to your troops about how it should be a privilege to stand tall and proudly salute our nation's flag.

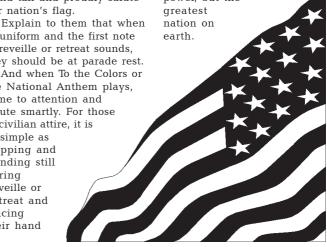
Explain to them that when in uniform and the first note of reveille or retreat sounds, they should be at parade rest.

the National Anthem plays, come to attention and salute smartly. For those in civilian attire, it is as simple as stopping and standing still during Reveille or Retreat and placing their hand

over their heart for the playing of To the Colors or the National Anthem.

Better yet, take your troops and family to the parade grounds or wherever the retreat ceremony is held at your base and watch a squadron perform the detail. Think about what it means to be an American fighting in forces which guard our country and our way of life.

You have pledged your life in the defense of this great nation. Take responsibility for your actions, be proud and teach others the importance of demonstrating the pride and professionalism that make us. not only the world's supreme air power, but the



Sports briefs

Hours of operation

Chace Fitness Center
5 a.m.-2 a.m. Mon. – Fri.
8 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat. & Sun.
8 a.m.-2 a.m. down days & holiays

Fitness annex (skating rink)

6-8:30 a.m. & 4-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. squadron/unit use only

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. & 5-9 p.m. Mon.-Fri. general use

8 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat., down days & holidays

Bowling tournament

The Lajes Bowling Association hosts a tournament at 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday for doubles, singles and 4-person teams, open to anyone who has bowled during the 2003-2004 or 2004-2005 seasons with at least 21 games. Events will be for both days, with different teams; singles can play both days, but only win once. For more information, call Walt Baer at 2-5233. Entry forms are available at the Hillside Lajes Bowling Center.

Challenge match

Top of the Rock vs. Bottom of the Rock basketball tournament is at 7 p.m. March 25 in the high school gym. To sign up, call Staff Sgt. Eric Ross at 2-6126 by March 24. DJ, Senior Airman, Jovan Thomas will keep the tunes jamming throughout the tournament.

Attention spinners

The evening spin classes on Monday and Wednesday in the annex has been moved to 5:15 p.m.

Kickball

A kickball tournament is at 7 p.m. March 18 at the Oceanview softball field. Teams must be 8-10 people, with 2 females. E-mail names to Staff Sgt. Eric Ross at eric.ross@lajes.af.mil. to sign up.



Hosedown

(Above) James "Mac" McDonald, 729th Air Mobility Squadron, lifts the ball over Sao Miguel's players for the local Associação Desportiva e Recreativa Escolar Praiense Senior Men's volleyball team during a regional volleyball tournament in São Miguel Feb. 24-27. ADREP finished behind São Miguel's team, AAA Açores, for second place and will travel to Pico Saturday for the tournament's second phase. If they win there, they will go on to phase 3, compete against Faial and have a rematch against Sao Miguel. (Right) Bryan Campbell, 729th Air Mobility Squadron, smashes a ball set by Joel Bolina, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, during warmups for ADREP's game vs. Sao Jorge during a regional tournament in São Miguel Feb. 27. This was the last game of the tournament and ADREP won 3-0. Three American active duty members joined the local Portuguese team that's coached by Ricky Baptista, 65th Medical Operations Squadron. (Photos by Tracy Campbell)



